MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

16 JANUARY 1981

American Hostages

Since Iran and the United States have accepted the Algerian Government statement--as yet unpublished--and since the methods for the transfer of frozen assets have been "defined and presented" by Iran "in a completely practical and realistic way," there are "absolutely no reasons" for nonacceptance by the United States provided it is "really inclined to solve the matter" of the hostages, Minister of State for Executive Affairs Behzad Habavi stated in an interview with PARS, reported by Tehran radio. He added that Iran sees "no obstacle" to the resolution of the hostage issue and that it is up to the United States to "bring about a definite outcome" on 16 January. "Any procrastination is condemned" by Iran, he averred.

In an earlier statement, carried by the radio, Nabavi said the American opportunity to take a "really practical step" of transferring Iran's frozen assets to the central bank of a third country extends only up to the close of business on 16 January. If the United States fails to take action to transfer the deposits by then, he said, "the circumstances would radically be changed" from the standpoint of the Iranian Government. Nabavi confirmed that Iran has just delivered its "final proposal" regarding the transfer of the currently frozen assets and said the United States has undertaken to deposit all the frozen Iranian assets in the central bank of a third country "before the release of the hostages." AFP, citing "well-informed sources" in Tehran, reported that the United States and Iran have agreed on financial terms for the hostages' release.

Iran Domestic Affairs

Khomeyni Speech--In a speech to bazaar traders, carried by Tehran radio, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni praised the role of the bazaars as a "great support" for Islam but warned against unspecified individuals in the bazaars who are "deviants" and have engaged in "acts of sabotage." Khomeyni urged the bazaaris to make sure such individuals do not give them "a bad name" and said they should demand that those who spread their views on behalf of the bazaars should "put their names to their declarations." Military matters, Khomeyni went on, should be left to Iran's military and political leaders and should not be subject to criticism in the Majlis or in the bazaars. Khomeyni advised everyone "not to comment about the war we are afflicted with." "We will all be to blame," he said, if there is any "weakening" or "loss of heart" at the front.

Clergy Support for Army--An unattributed Tehran radio commentary praised the role of the armed forces in "winning and safeguarding" the Islamic revolution and criticized "pseudorevolutionaries," notably "Khalqis," who called for the dissolution of the armed forces after the revolution. "The imam and the aware clergy," the radio said, have "always supported" the armed forces, despite attempts by certain groups to "separate" them from the clergy "under the pretext of reorganizing the armed forces."

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Palme Mission--President Saddam Husayn met with UN special envoy Olof Palme, Baghdad radio reported, and discussed ways of ending the Gulf war. Palme also had talks in Baghdad with Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz and Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi. In a related development, Deputy Prime Minister 'Aziz said that Iraq will suspend its territorial demands if Iran stops its propaganda attacks and "various campaigns against Iraq." The deputy prime minister, in an article for the Paris-based magazine AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI, reviewed by INA, said Iran has ignored the offer, choosing instead to continue

the war. Tariq 'Aziz stressed that Iraq has only two objectives in a possible peace settlement: Iran's recognition of Iraqi sovereignty over the Shatt al-'Arab waterway and an area around Ahvaz.

Arms for Iran--KUNA, citing the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-WATAN, reported that Iran has asked the United States through "a leading Algerian figure" for an urgent arms deal, including sophisticated aircraft and spare parts. In a similar report, SUNA, citing AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI, stated that Libya recently financed shipments of arms and military hardware to Iran from various European ports.

Military Situation--Both sides continued to report clashes in a large number of areas. An Iranian Armed Forces communique, carried by Tehran radio, claimed successes in the Mahshahr area, said Iranian helicopter gunships were in action on the Khuninshahr and Ahvaz fronts and reported that an Iraqi attack in the Dehloran region was repulsed by revolution guards. The communique also noted that two Iraqi battalions had been destroyed on the Gilan-e Gharb front. An Iraqi General Command communique, reported by INA, claimed Iraqi attacks in the Dezful and Abadan areas and noted other clashes elsewhere. Amman radio reported that Iraqi television carried film of a new battlefront on Iran's northwestern borders. The report follows earlier remarks by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn that Iraq has opened a new front on the northern border area between the two countries.

Kurdish Situation

The clandestine Kurdish radios continue their reports on armed clashes and appeals for support. The anti-Iran Voice of Iranian Kordestan radio reported skirmishes between peshmergas of the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) and Iranian revolution guardsmen around Marivan and Mahabad, which were acknowledged in a Tehran radio report of Iranian military action against "counterrevolutionaries" in the area. The radio also noted the initial publication of a newspaper sponsored by the KDP in Saqqez. For its part, the anti-Iraq Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan radio cited joint peshmerga-"Communist Party" operations against Iraqi positions while another anti-Iraq radio, the Voice of Iraqi Revolution, urged support for the "patriotic union of Kurdistan" in its efforts to regain oil-rich Kurdish lands seized by the Baghdad "fascist regime."

YAR

Unidentified gunmen shot and killed Local Government Minister Lt Col Muhammad Hamud Khamis, San'a' radio reported, as he was returning to the capital from Al-Hudaydah Province.

Turkey

Head of state Kenen Evren, in a speech reported by Ankara radio, revealed that a constituent assembly will be established between 30 August and 29 October. However, the ruling National Security Council will not remain "outside," he said, but will carry out the duties of the Senate and will not only approve laws drafted by the assembly but will have powers of final amendment. Evren warned Turkey's political parties not to have "high hopes," since "we will not allow any of the parties into the constituent assembly."

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KABUL NEW TIMES ON 'UNDECLARED WAR' AGAINST DRA

LD160752 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0440 GMT 16 Jan 81

[Text] Kabul, 16 Jan (BAKHTAR)--"Undeclared War Against Afghanistan Continues" is the title of a Kabul NEW TIMES [article] which reads:

The undeclared war which has been launched by the imperialists against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan unfortunately continues with its intensity. The imperialists, led by U.S. in collusion with the Chinese chauvinism and Pakistan military circles and reaction of the region, continue not only their military help to the counter-revolutionaries and enemies of Sawr Revolution but also the propaganda campaign which has been launched against the party, government and hardworking people of Afghanistan. They are striving to fight Sawr Revolution on two fronts opened since its victory.

The imperialists want to topple down the rule [words indistinct] bring back into power a negligible [words indistinct] class and exploiters who ruled over this backward country for long [words indistinct] lot of the enemies of Sawr Revolution and (?feudal) lords is in the focus of attention of us imperialism and its allies. [Words indistinct] reports [words indistinct] the U.S. imperialism and its allies are working on a large military, political and economic strategy in this part of the world to safeguard their so-called "vital interests."

These reports have made it clear that the U.S. imperialism in collaboration with Britain and the regime of As-Sadat are supplying the counter-revolutionaries and the enemies of Sawr Revolution with arms and sophisticated deadly weapons. They not only supply the counter-revolutionaries with arms but commission a large number of secret agents to carry out destructive and subversive activities together with the armed bandits exported into Afghanistan.

The subversive elements and agents will try to enter into Afghanistan and carry out terrorist activities with an attempt to create an atmosphere of fear and terror in the country, and generate rumours among the heroic and valorous people of Afghanistan. Moreover, they give away large sums of money to counter-revolutionaries, reactionaries and enemies of Sawr Revolution in order to continue their destructive acts against the Sawr Revolution and the innocent people of this country.

On the other hand they continue intensifying their propaganda campaign against the party, government and people of Afghanistan in a move to divert the public opinion (?against) Sawr Revolution and the gains it has already achieved in the interest of the large masses of people who had suffered much at the hand of exploiters and oppressive ruling class. The propaganda and false and distorted facts carried by the mass media of the (?imperialist) is part of the plan of U.S. (?imperialism to) bring the Sawr Revolution to failure. But the propaganda of the imperialist has no impact now on the people of the world. Many foreigners have come to Afghanistan since the victory of Sawr Revolution and especially its new revolutionary phase. To please their governments and the media they work with, many Western (?journalists carried) in their papers and radios and televisions false reports and a good deal of fabrications and lies about revolutionary Afghanistan. However, there have been a good number of eye witness visitors and factual reporters who fearlessly admitted that what the Western mass media carry about Sawr Revolution (?and) the Government of Afghanistan has been contrary to the real situation in the country.

The imperialists have raised a high cry and hue that life is not normal in Afghanistan and that the government has no control over the situation, but such lies and reports have repeatedly refuted not only by the Afghans themselves but also by the foreigners who are living in this country and those who now and then pay a visit to [words indistinct] out what is going on. Admittedly, (?that) which attracts the attention of foreign visitors is the prevalence of a calm atmosphere in the country.

The British parliamentary delegation for example, in its recent visit to Afghanistan clearly acknowledged that all the news and reports carried by the Western press and mass media are false, distorted and contrary to the real prevailing situation in Afghanistan. The members of this delegation saw by their own eyes that the situation was calm and stabilized and that the people were busy carrying out their normal [words indistinct]. The people of Afghanistan are continuing their support for their government to help it carry out its development efforts. The undeclared war and the campaign of propaganda carried by the imperialists will sustain defeat because the cause of our people is sacred.

PUBLIC WORKS MINISTER ADDRESSES VOLUNTEERS

LD160552 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0432 GMT 16 Jan 81

[Text] Kabul, 16 Jan (BAKHTAR)--To safeguard the security and peaceful life of the noble people of Ghazni Province, a number of the revolutionary and militant youth of the DOAY [Democratic Organization of Afghan Youth] of the province voluntarily got armed to fight for the security side by side with the soldiers and officers of the armed and security forces.

Minister of public works, eng. Nazar Mohammad explained the role of the youths in the defense of the honour of the country and the gains of the revolution and its new development phase and expressed hope for more victory of the revolutionary youth in crushing the enemies of the revolution. Some of the militant youth stated we are ready, realizing our historical mission to bury the enemies of our country and the enemies of the prosperity of our people to the grave of history and make sacrifices for the guarding of the country. In this ceremony gifts which were prepared by DOAY (were) distributed among the brigades of Ghazni Province by the minister of public works.

REBELS BURN SCHOOLS, KORANIC WORKS IN TAKHAR

LD142010 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 14 Jan 81

[Except] The hirelings of international imperialism and world reaction, those enemies of the sacred religion of Islam and our toiling people, recently set fire to schools in the Rostaq district of Takhar Province. Thirty volumes of the holy Koran together with teaching materials were burned. By so doing they earned eternal damnations for themselves.

BAKHTAR agency reports from the province that the toiling people of Rostaq district who visited the schools on fire, condemned with deep hatred the treacherous and anti-Islamic actions of the rebels and expressed their support for the capture and elimination of these counterrevolutionary elements.

FOREIGN MINISTER LEAVES FOR SAUDI ARABIA 15 JAN

BK151724 Dacca Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 15 Jan 81

[Text] Foreign Minister Prof Mohammad Shamsul Haq has expressed the hope that the forthcoming Islamic summit would bring the Islamic countries closer together both politically and economically so that they could act in concert to meet the challenges confronting the Islamic world. He was talking to Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha in Dacca today before leaving for Ta'if to attend the Islamic foreign ministers meeting which proceeds the summit.

Professor Haq also expressed his optimism that the summit would lay the foundation for an effective and meaningful cooperation within the Islamic world to insure its political and economic security.

The foreign ministers meet begins at Ta'if on Saturday [17 January] and the 4-day third Islamic summit will begin in holy Mecca on the 25th of this month. (?All the) 40 member countries are expected to take part in the summit.

GOVERNMENT UPGRADES PLANS FOR NUCLEAR POWERPLANT

BK101344 Hong Kong AFP in English 1252 GMT 10 Jan 81

[Text] Dacca, 10 Jan (AFP)--The Bangladesh Government has decided to raise the capacity of its proposed nuclear power project at Roopur to 300 mW from the original plan of 125 mW, state Minister for Science and Technology Dr R.A. Ghani said today.

In an interview with AFP, Dr Ghani said the decision to instal a 300 mW plant was taken recently after considering the economic, technical and other benefits.

He said with the setting up a 300 mW plant instead of 125 mW, generation of electricity would go up by about 250 percent, but the cost would increase by only 150 percent.

The minister said negotiations were underway with France to procure the reactor for the project which was originally mooted in 1961 during Pakistani days but could not be taken up for implementation due to the lack of funds.

Dr Ghani said that the government had intensified its efforts for implementation of the project and was in touch with "friendly countries," including Islamic states, for mobilising funds for the project expected to cost about $600 million.

The minister declined to name the countries, but informed sources said that Saudia Arabia, the UAE and a number of Gulf and other countries had been approached to finance the nuclear power project at Roopur, 75 miles west of Dacca. He indicated that the government was considering the possibility of mobilising more domestic resources for the project which would meet the existing shortfall in Bangladesh's power requirement besides meeting future needs.

Last month, Mr Girard, vice-president of French firm "Technicatom," an organ of the Atomic Energy Commission of France, visited Dacca and had "fruitful talks" with Bangladesh authorities on the project. He also had a meeting with Dr Ghani and an announcement later said that Technicatom had agreed to supply the reactor for the project.

GANDHI RULES OUT IMPOSING NATIONAL EMERGENCY

BK141312 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 14 Jan 81

[Text] The prime minister has ruled out the imposition of any kind of emergency in the country. Mrs Gandhi was talking to newsmen at Pune Airport this evening while leaving for Bombay. Asked about the charges leveled by the opposition, the prime minister said that they have been saying all sorts of things but none of them has turned out to be correct. Asked whether the meeting with the former shankaracharya [Hindu religious leader] at Satara will not encourage blind faith, Mrs Gandhi said: I do not have faith in anyone; he is a learned man who radiates compassion.

RAO HOPES FOR EARLY, POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT ON DRA

BK161017 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 16 Jan 81

[Text] External Affairs Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao has expressed the hope that some positive development on Afghanistan question will take place before the nonaligned foreign ministers conference beginning in New Delhi early next month.

During a 40-minute long question-answer session at the Press Club of India in New Delhi today, Mr Rao said for the first time there was a positive response both from Afghanistan and Pakistan to hold talks. There was also agreement on the presence of the UN secretary general during these talks. The ball is now in the court of the secretary general and what he decides is more important at the present stage.

Asked whether India will be associated with the talks Mr Rao said the main parties will be Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran; India is deeply interested in this matter as it affects our region.

SOVIET OIL DELEGATION MEETS WITH INDIAN COMMISSION

BK141315 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 14 Jan 81

[Text] A Soviet delegation led by Deputy Oil Minister D. Takoyev had discussions with members of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission [ONGC] in Cehra Dur today. Oil exploration in Tripura figured in the discussions. The Soviet Union is drilling for the ONGC in that state. It will also take up drilling activity in West Bengal under an agreement signed last year.

PAKISTANI SCIENTIST VISITS NUCLEAR FACILITIES

BK151625 Hong Kong AFP in English 1557 GMT 15 Jan 81

[Text] New Delhi, 15 Jan (AFP)--Nobel laureate Dr Abdus Salam of Pakistan today regretted that India had declined a Pakistani offer for nuclear collaboration.

The Pakistani physicist, now here, said in an interview with the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) that he had been told of the offer by officials of his country. He, however, noted that there was great scope for cooperation between the two countries in science at the level of individual scientists apart from scientific exchanges at governmental level.

The agency said Dr Salam refused to discuss the alleged Pakistani preparation for making nuclear bombs. He said he did not want to be drawn into the subject of Pakistan's nuclear work as he was an "outsider" not connected with nuclear research work in Pakistan. (Dr Salam is heading the International Institute of Theorectical Studies at Trietse, Italy. "It is sheer madness for any country to develop nuclear weapons, he was quoted as observing.

The agency said Dr Salam, however, confirmed a BBC report earlier saying that he was present at a meeting convened by the late Pakistani Prime Minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto when it was reportedly decided to manufacture a bomb. Dr Salam, in a partial reference, regretted that "Gandhian India" was "not at all" practising non-violence.

He arrived here from Bombay where he had visited the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC). Asked if he was convinced after visiting the BARC that India was not working on the development of nuclear explosives, he said he only saw the "civilian side" of it. Dr Salam said he was "highly impressed" by what he saw of Indian scientific progress and believed that other developing countries could benefit from the technologies developed in this country.

INDIAN EXPRESS VIEWS NONALIGNED MEETING'S PROBLEMS

BK151427 New Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 10 Jan 81 p 1

[By Kuldip Nayar]

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 9--India is keen that the Soviet Union is not condemned by name for the situation in Afghanistan at the forthcoming conference of foreign ministers from non-aligned countries.

Senior Foreign Office men, hurriedly sent to various parts of the non-aligned world three weeks before the conference, are expected to persuade the participants not to precipitate things by singling out the Soviet Union.

New Delhi is one with those who demand that Soviet forces should withdraw from Afghanistan but feels that a resolution condemning Moscow will not help. The prime minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi, has taken a similar stance during her discussions with the visiting foreign dignitaries from the West.

Left to India, it would have preferred postponement of the conference which is being convened at a time when it feels that some efforts are afoot to soften the attitudes of not only the Soviet Union and Afghanistan but also Pakistan and Iran, the two neighbouring countries. Not long ago, the Yugoslav foreign minister during his visit to New Delhi had proposed a meeting of some foreign ministers of non-aligned countries to discuss Afghanistan but India rejected the suggestion, fearing an outright condemnation of the Soviet Union.

New Delhi's worry is that the non-aligned countries may repeat what they did at the UN. The Soviet Union was condemned by 104 against 18 votes in January and by 111 votes against 20 in November. India abstained both times.

In the past, the resolutions of non-aligned conferences have been based on consensus; never has the movement formally split. New Delhi fears that some states are determined to pass a resolution which, it feels, will only aggravate the situation.

India is willing to go along with the non-aligned countries up to the point the Commonwealth heads of government of the Asian and Pacific region went. In their joint communique they expressed "their full support for the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-aligned status of Afghanistan and other countries of the region and urged the parties concerned to work towards a settlement which would ensure that the Afghan people would determine their own destiny free from foreign interference and intervention."

However, observers do not take the "climate of conciliation," which Kabul is trying to create, seriously. They believe that dust is sought to be raised so as to cover the real issue--the withdrawal of Soviet troops--before the non-aligned countries meet. There is no indication that Moscow is willing to set any time limitfor its exit from Afghanistan.

Islamabad realises it, but it does not mind talks with Kabul in the presence of a UN representative. It feels that this way it may not only unfreeze the problem but also internationalist it. Also, Pakistan hopes that its gesture may mollify the Soviet Union which is angry over the supply of arms that has continued through Pakistan uninterrupted.

Kampuchea may not prove to be as difficult as Afghanistan since even those who are against Kampuchea's recognition do not support the Pol Pot. Again what the Commonwealth leaders resolved may be the starting point. They said: "There was an urgent need for a comprehensive political solution to the Kampucnean problem which would ensure the sovereignty, independence and neutrality of Kampuchea."

VIERA IN INDIA TO DISCUSS NONALIGNED CONFERENCE

FL160136 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 16 Jan 81

[Text] Cuban Vice Foreign Minister Jose Viera today arrived in New Delhi to exchange views with local officials about the nonaligned ministerial-level conference that will be held in that capital in February.

Meanwhile, it has been announced at the United Nations that India invited UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim to attend the New Delhi conference. Waldheim accepted the invitation in principle and will send his formal reply in a few days, it was reported.

The New Delhi ministerial-level conference will examine the international economic and political situation and will especially commemorate the 20th founding anniversary of the nonaligned movement.

NABAVI SETS DEADLINE FOR U.S. TRANSFER OF FUNDS

LD152136 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2043 GMT 15 Jan 81

[Text] Please pay attention to a report which I have just received: In a contact with Behzad Nabavi, minister of state for executive affairs and official responsible for the hostages, PARS learned: The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has proclaimed for over a week its positive and final reply in connection with the statement of the Algerian Government and has accepted this statement in general.

Behzad Nabavi said: What is left is only paving the way for an agreement between U.S. banks and the Central Bank of Iran for the transfer of Iran's deposits frozen in U.S. banks. This issue has been referred to the Central Bank of Iran. Regrettably, however, the U.S. banks have not made an acceptable move which would bring about any results in this respect. Therefore, the Government of Iran, bearing in mind the U.S. Government's accepted commitments in the statement of the Algerian Government, this morning prepared and delivered its final proposal with regard to the transfer of the deposits.

PARS asked Mr Nabavi: Certain news agencies report that the release of the hostages will coincide with the release of Iran's frozen deposits. Is this report true?

Nabavi strongly denied this, saying: On the basis of the statement of the Algerian side which has been accepted by the two sides, the United States has undertaken to deposit all Iran's deposits--frozen in U.S. banks and in their European branches, in accordance with the decree of the U.S. President and before the release of the hostages--in the central bank of a third country.

Behzad Nabavi was asked: When do you think this problem will be brought to a conclusion?

The minister of state for executive affairs said: From the standpoint of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the U.S. Government has an opportunity only up to the end of office hours tomorrow, Friday, in order to carry out a really practical step in connection with the transfer of Iran's agreed deposits to the central bank of a third country. Should there be no action toward this end by the end of office hours tomorrow, the circumstances would radically be changed from the standpoint of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran. This is because the Government of Iran has no wish to begin from scratch what it has accomplished toward this end during the past 70 days; and it holds Washington directly responsible for a lack of results from the measures already carried out.

KHAMENE'I SAYS U.S. PROCRASTINATING ON HOSTAGES

JN161018 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0855 GMT 16 Jan 81

[Friday sermon by Tehran Friday Imam Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i at Tehran University mosque--live, in Persian with Arabic superimposed]

[Excerpts] Peace and God's blessings be upon you.

U.S. imperialism is trying once again to create new problems in the hostages issue with political games played by the world's imperialists, who once again want to postpone and delay a solution to the issue. Officials should not sacrifice Islamic principles for personal gains.

What the Islamic Majlis and the Government of the Islamic Republic has done on the hostages issue was founded on good intentions. The U.S. hostages, who are U.S. mercenaries and agents in Iran, were detained in protest of the harboring of the accursed shah. This act expressed our indignation and wrath. The Muslim student followers of the imam's policy were an iron fist that dealt this blow, which was a triumph for Islam.

America reacted and froze our assets. It refused to hand over the funds plundered by the royal family and continued to conspire against us. After a while, the Islamic Majlis decided to hand over the hostages in return for a U.S. pledge not to interfere in Iran's domestic affairs, not to conspire against us, not to give refuge to our enemies and to return to us the funds it looted from us. America pledged to respond to these demands.

The entire world, especially those who are sincere, realized that the Islamic Republic's Government was seeking to demonstrate its patience toward the hostages and its Islamic clemency. However, the world soon realized that the U.S. imperialist government did not want to solve the hostages issue. It has used the hostages as a pretext for armed attack and as an instrument for tendentious propaganda against us.

On behalf of the worshippers here and of all the masses of Iran, I say that the reason the hostages issue has not been solved is the U.S. imperialist government itself. [indistinct chants in background]

Very well. If the Americans are prepared to apply and implement their commitments and not to attack the Iranian people and not to conspire against us, the hostages will return to their country, as decided by the Islamic Majlis and our government. However, if they want to drag the Islamic Republic step by step toward their orbit, so that it will accept the imperialist and Zionist designs and sacrifice its Islamic principles for personal gains, this will not happen.

AFP: IRAN, U.S. AGREE ON PAYMENT FOR RELEASE

NC160913 Paris AFP in English 0911 GMT 16 Jan 81

[Excerpt] Tehran, 16 Jan (AFP)--Washington and Tehran have agreed on the amount the United States will pay Iran in exchange for the simultaneous release of the 52 American hostages in Iran, a well-informed source said here today. The source added that the U.S. administration had now only to work out details with American banks to make the funds available.

NABAVI: NO OBSTACLE TO ENDING HOSTAGES ISSUE

LD161122 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1049 GMT 16 Jan 81

[Text] On the last day of the deadline for the American Government to solve the issue of the hostages, today PARS held a brief interview with engineer Behzad Nabavi, minister of state in charge of executive affairs and government spokesman. The minister of state in charge of executive affairs was asked: What is the situation like on the last day of the deadline?

Nabavi said: As the statement of the Algerian Government had been previously accepted by both sides and as the methods of implementation for the transfer of our frozen assets have been defined and presented by the Government of the Islamic Republic in a completely practical and realistic way, there are absolutely no reasons for the nonacceptance by the American Government provided it is really inclined to solve the matter.

Nabavi said: Contrary to the claims of certain sources, there are no complicated problems [mas'aleh-e pichideh], and in the eyes of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, there is no obstacle to the ending of this issue. Only the true inclination of Washigton can bring about a definite outcome to the issue today.

The minister of state in charge of executive affairs also emphasized: The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has expressed its willingness to end the issue and from our point of view any procrastination is condemned.

AUSTRIA WILLING TO TRANSFER HOSTAGES PAYMENT

AU160930 Vienna DIE PRESSE in German 16 Jan 81 p 1

[Special DIE PRESSE report: "Payments for Hostages to Tehran via Vienna"]

[Text] Vienna-Austria has declared its readiness to help in the financial transactions necessary in connection with the release of the U.S. hostages detained in Iran, if this should be required. A report to this effect was discussed at the last cabinet meeting on Tuesday, after Algeria--which mediates between the United States and Tehran--had asked the Austrian Government if it were ready to accept a U.S. cash and gold deposit for implementing the payments.

The Austrian Government has answered in the affirmative, provided that the United States requested such services. The United States has been informed of Austria's positive reaction and has gratefully acknowledged it without, however, directing such a request to Austria to date. To be prepared for any contingencies, a small technical committee has been set up at the National Bank that is to prepare the necessary financial operations.

KHOMEYNI ADDRESSES MERCHANTS OF TEHRAN BAZAAR

LD151316 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1103 GMT 15 Jan 81

[Speech by Ayatollah Khomeyni to group of visitors including merchants and shopkeepers of Tehran bazaar, at Hoseyniyeh Jamaran on 15 January--recorded, duration 21 minutes]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In the course of history the bazaar, the bazaars throughout the country, particularly the Tehran bazaar, have been a strong arm for Islam and for the country and, God willing, will continue to be so. Not all of you may remember, but the older ones remember that the former regime--it was perhaps under the Reza shah--decided to abolish the bazaar in Iran altogether. This assembly under one roof was feared. Assemblies which were bound by walls and under a roof and a place of congregation for the believers, the faithful and dedicated youngsters were feared. The mosques, which were places of congregation by these very bazaars, and the bazaar itself, which were the nation's place of assembly were feared. The bazaar has always been a mighty and robust arm for furthering Islam and progress of Islamic economy. This is so today.

Because the former regimes were not with the people and because the people were not with them Mohammad Reza did not dare come to the bazaar, not once. But the situation is not so now, for the government and the bazaar, the president and the bazaaris, are all brothers and come from the people themselves. It is not as if they were in the upper echelons, as it were, and decadent and thus unacceptable to the people.

Throughout history, whenever Islam faced any problem or the great Islamic ulema faced any problem it was sufficient for the bazaar to close down for a half a day in response to see the problem resolved. The bazaar is a great support for Islam, and the bazaaris should safeguard this with the utmost care. There are individuals in all sections of the people who are against the general interests of Muslims and whose efforts would be directed to filling their own pockets. There are also in the bazaar individuals who, at a time when our country is war stricken and when old men and women of the peasantry donate all their possessions to Islam and the war effort, are deviants, who do not fear God, who engage in acts of sabotage at times like this, against the government and the war we are now in.

It is a source of regret that the multimillions of the nation, in all the villages, hamlets, the towns and the bazaars, are concerned about the war, the army, the war-stricken people and the pasdars [Islamic Revolution Guards Corpsmen] and yet there are some people everywhere in the country, including the bazaar, who have placed themselves against Islam, against the Islamic nation, in the face of this vast mass of people. You, the gentlemen of the bazaar, should endeavor to ensure that the bazaar will not be blamed, that these individuals do not give the bazaar a bad name. Iran's bazaar has a good reputation and it has always supported the country, Islam and the nation; the bazaar has always intervened to solve problems; it has been part of the nation and it is the very nation and people who are assembled in the bazaar and are busy dealing with the nation's economy and doing correct things. You should beware lest a small group who have lost their beneifts or who are afraid of losing them--that is, their illegitimate interests--does something to give the bazaar a bad name or says something on behalf of the bazaar. If they spread something on behalf of the bazaar, the bazaaris should object to it and should demand that those who spread their views on behalf of the bazaar should put their names to their declarations.

We should be extremely careful about these things today. The bazaar is an assembly which can safeguard the country from harm as long as it moves along the path of Islam, which, praise be to God, it is already doing. It is the bazaar which is supporting the army; it is this very bazaar which, at this time, is supporting the country and the government. If we have division in the bazaar, if some of those who are sowing division are allowed to be active, then, God forbid, this mighty pillar of Islam might be destroyed. You should be careful about this. You will recall that since the time of Mirza Shirazi the bazaars have been the places in which solutions were found for problems. If a prominent member of the ulema had decided to leave Tehran in protest over ill-treatment experienced in the time of the Qajar Dynasty, the bazaar would close down and that would be enough to make the government repent and beg the member of the ulema to stay on. It is the bazaar that should be properly careful, and its various sections that should be careful, that it is they who develop the mosques and fill the mosques with their people.

In Sunni countries, as far as I have seen--for example in Hijaz [Saudi Arabia]--when the noon call for prayer is heard the bazaars close down, or else they remain open but the police look after the shops, and the people go to the holy mosque or to Nabi mosque for prayers. The bazaar must be the full symbol of Islam and justice. The bazaar must avoid doing things which are contrary to Islam's injunctions and welcome those things which accord with Islam's injunctions. The bazaar must be free of usury. Should, God forbid, certain individuals in the bazaar engage in usury the bazaaris themselves should advise them lest such a malady gets around and drags our country to destruction. Usury will deatroy the bazaars and corrupt the people. May God forbid there should be such a grave sin, which is placed on top of the list of sins by God, a sin which is evern more grave than adultery and as grave as waging war against God, in the bazaar. It is not fair to have profiteering in the bazaar at a time when the Iranian people, the Iranian people's wives and children, are foregoing their benefits and donating whatever they possess. May there never be such a thing in the bazaar--a thing which would cause trouble for the people and cripple the people. Thould, God forbid, Islam suffer a defeat as a result of our action our responsibility before the most exalted, most blessed God will be exttemely grave.

May there never be in the Iranian bazaar any issue raised with regard to the Iranian Army, to the Iranian judiciary, to the policy or pasdars which could result in weakening them. In particular, the army and the gendarmerie and the pasdars who are now busy with the war, are at the forefront of the war and who are getting killed and sacrificing their blood--may there never be issues raised in the bazaar or elsewhere that could result in weakening them.

It should be carefully borne in mind that ordinary people have no knowledge of the art of war. The art of war is possessed by the army, and even then only the top ranks of the army, not everyone. If there is an advance one day and retreat the next, the matter should not be raised in the Majlis or in the bazaar or in speeches, by questioning the reasons why this or that happened. You have no knowledge of the way the war is being prosecuted. The content of a war involves advancing one day and retreating another. These are all matters for those in the know to handle. Those who do not know these things should not sit in their homes or go among the people and question why this or that happened. These are matters which must be avoided these days. I advise everyone not to comment about the war with which we are now afflicted. Whatever one's view may be it should not be made public. One should not make any remarks that might disturb the minds of the army chiefs, the mind of the president, the mind of the government, without realizing the consequences of what one is doing. You think you are doing a service while in fact is not doing a service. One must be careful about these matters; we should not have a situation in which anyone who has been to the front once would get up and shout to all and sundry about the situation on the front. You and I have no competence to judge what should take place on the front. Those who are the experts appreciate how the front should be, now to maintain the front and how to carry out the requirements of the war.

Should, God forbid, there be any weakening on the front, any loss of heart on the war front, we will all be to blame for it. The bazaar must support the front wholeheartedly and strengthen it from behind. The Majlis must support the front and strengthen the Majlis. The orators, the writers, journalists, the entire press, radio and television must all be for winning a victory today. They should not sit about all the time citing problems and causing weakness in our security forces.

I give the good tidings to the security and armed forces, who are now putting their lives on the line along the front, all sections, be they tribesmen, ordinary civilian individuals or the military themselves, the other armed forces such as the pasdars, and the policemen that Iran is behind you. [shout of "God is great"] You should not take notice of certain remarks occasionally made. Some of these may be ill-intentioned but perhaps mostly out of lack of attention to issues involved. Our forces who are now laying their lives on the line along the borders should rely on God and should bear in mind that nowhere in the world is there an army enjoying such support from the nation. The Iraqi nation is totally opposed to the Iraqi Army now. Our nation is fully supporting and behind our army. The bazaars of Muslims are all behind you. The masses of the people are all behind you. If there are a group of people who are the former regime's leftovers, who are the cast-off elements of the corrupt system, who have sold themselves to the superpowers and who cause some disturbance of disillusionment--these are not the nation. The nation lies in the bazaars of the Muslims, the factories and the farms and such things as are now working for the nation. These are with you [the armed forces]. If someone says something, you should not lose heart. You should devote your attention to your job, with the utmost strength and reliance upon God, as your own plans warrants and move forward.

I hope that all our problems will be resolved soon and all our bazaars become Islamic and all of us be guided toward the path of Islam. May most exalted, most blessed God give you health, security and happiness, and an opportunity to serve Islam.

KHOMEYNI: IRAN WILL NOT ATTEND ISLAMIC SUMMIT

LD152135 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2042 GMT 15 Jan 81

[Text] Following rumors concerning Iran's participation in the Islamic summit, which is to be held in Saudi Arabia, we contacted the office of the imam. Hojjat ol-Eslam Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, commenting on the matter, said that he had sought the imam's view on this issue, and that he said that should Saddam take part in the conference, then Iran will not take part in it. Consequently, no delegation representing Iran will attend the conference.

KHOMEYNI RECEIVES RAJA'I, NABAVI, FRENCH DOCTORS

JN160632 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 16 Jan 81

[Text] Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, received yesterday brother Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i, and Behzad Nabavi, minister of state for executive affairs.

The imam also received separately Ayatollah (Lahuti), Majlis deputy, and Hasan Rohani, both of whom held talks with his eminence.

The imam also received yesterday two French doctors who belong to (?an international) medical society, along with the director of health affairs in the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran following their visit to the fighting areas in Khuzestan. Expressing thanks for their meeting with the nation's imam, the two French doctors said they regretted the losses and damage that have resulted from the war imposed on the Islamic Republic of Iran by the agent Iraqi regime. Thanking them for their medical efforts, the nation's imam said: We hope that you volunteers will declare to world public opinion the injustice that has afflicted Iran, injustice of which you have witnessed so little.

RAJA'I, CABINET, GOVERNORS GENERAL MEET IN MASHHAD

LD151232 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Jan 81

[Text] According to a Central News Bureau correspnodent, Mr Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i, accompanied by the Cabinet [Cabineh] and governors general from all over the country, arrived at Mashhad this morning to review difficulties of various provinces. Such review meetings are held in a different province every month.

RAJA'I, CABINET DISCUSS WAR, CONSCRIPTS' PAY

LD151248 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Jan 81

[Text] According to the Central News Bureau, the Cabinet [Cabineh] held a session at 1800 yesterday presided over by Mr Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i, the prime minister.

During this session, which lasted more than 4 hours, while discussing and reviewing war issues, in order to implement the previous resolution of the Cabinet it was decided that the [headquarters of the] Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran should pay the salaries of recalled conscripts who finished their military service in the year 1978 and of volunteers from all the nationalized and confiscated institutions and factories which have come under the authority of various ministries, government institutions or other institutions affiliated with the government and revolutionary foundations, in accordance with article 59 of the law on national military service.

The related institutions must pay the difference between the salaries and bonuses of the above-named conscripts and volunteers when they present certificates to show that they have completed their service.

TRIAL OF ALLEGED IRANIAN CIA AGENT OPENS IN TEHRAN

LD151435 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 11 Jan 81 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Trial of CIA Spy Begins in Tehran"]

[Text] Branch 3 of the Central Islamic Revolution Court, presided over by Hojjat ol-Eslam Mobasheri, has begun hearing the case against Hamid Jara'edi, son of Gholam 'Ali.

At the opening of the session, the legal representative of the court read out the indictment against the accused as follows:

"Hamid Jara'edi, son of Gholam 'Ali, age 34, occupation, deputy head of the General Policies Office at the Ministry of Finance, PhD in international economics, born and resident in Tehran, Muslim, of Iranian nationality, married, no criminal record, detained [24 June 1980] is accused of contacting foreign elements and passing secret state information to them (espionage). Following the occupation of the former American Embassy in Tehran by the students, evidence and documents came to light indicating that the accused had been in contact with American elements and steps were immediately taken to detain him."

Following the reading of the indictment, the accused began his defense and described the nature of his contacts with the American security services in the following terms:

When I was in America, I was arrested on one occasion by security officials on some pretext and taken to an apartment, where I was made to drink something like orange juice, whereupon I became dizzy. The three of them then began to ask me different questions. Their demands and questions included the order that "when you go to Iran, you must provide us with information."

The shar' [religious law] magistrate then asked: Why did they arrest you?

The accused replied: Because they thought that I had access to detailed economic information, and they may have thought that in the future....

The shar' magistrate asked: What was the subject of your masters' degree?

The accused replied: I got one master's degree in Iran and another in America.

The shar' magistrate said: Continue; what did you do after you became dizzy?

The accused said: I resisted fiercely, and I told them that I would not cooperate with them under any circumstances. They then threatened that I would not get out of there safe and sound; they raised the question of money and said that if I worked with them they would pay me $500 a month.

Finally, in the fall of [1974] a contract was made between myself and the American espionage organization, the CIA, under the terms of which it was arranged that I should meet one of their agents in Tehran. Following my return to Iran my first meeting with them took place at the gas station on the parkway.

The shar' magistrate said: How many meetings did you have with him?

The accused: Two.

The shar' magistrate: When did you meet him again?

The accused replied: I met them at the gas station two and a half months after making the contract.

The shar' magistrate: Well, so you were afraid of the CIA while you were there [in America]. Why did you work with them after you returned to your own country?

The accused replied: They threatened that if I did not cooperate they would kill my two brothers, who were studying in America.

The shar' magistrate: Would you tell us what was discussed at your gas station meetings?

The accused: They asked me if I was engaged in a job or not. [be man goftand aya dombale-e kari rafte'i ya na]

The shar' magistrate: Did you have a code-name at these meetings or in correspondence?

The accused said: Since I used to be called Tony at university, they too chose to call me by this name, but in correspondence I used the name 'Ali Mansur.

The court's legal representative asked: How long was it before they started to pay you?

The accused replied: When I was engaged by the plan and budget organization, where I began to work as an economics expert and where I remained for a year, during which time I had no access to secret information, and even if I had, I would never have made it available to them.

The shar' magistrate asked: Had you agreed to become a member of the CIA?

The accused replied: Can the security organization of any country make a foreign national a member of that organization?

At the close of the session the accused stated: Under no circumstances was I willing to cooperate with them after the revolution, but they threatened me and forced me to do so. The court was adjourned until the following session.

ANTINARCOTICS WARNING ISSUED, SMUGGLERS EXECUTED

LD160544 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 16 Jan 81

[Text] The public relations department of the Islamic Revolution Public Prosecutor's Office, dealing with the fight against narcotics, has announced in a statement to the central News Bureau:

In this critical and decisive situation, when our combatants are fighting the satans of the East and the West in order to preserve the gains of the revolution, these international dealers are taking advantage of the sittuation and importing narcotics, the opium of social decadence. They think that with the resignation of one person [reference to resignation of Hojjat ol-Eslam Sheykh Sadeq Khalkhali as leader of the antinarcotics campaign], the fight against them has ended.

Therefore, the Islamic Revolution Public Prosecutor's Office, dealing with the fight against narcotics, after transferring the court from former officials and dealing with cases, has put three notorious and convicted smugglers on trial and sentenced them to death. The verdict was carried out at 1900 on 15 January.

TRANSPORT MINISTER DEPARTS ON MIDEAST MISSION

LD151816 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Jan 81

[Text] According to a PARS dispatch Mr Musa Kalantari, minister of roads and transport, accompanied by a delegation, left for a visit to Syria, Libya, Algeria and Lebanon.

Prior to his departure the minister of roads and transport said: The aim behind this trip is to have discussions and talks on expanding transport, air and sea routes, shipping and also on preparing the ground for technical cooperation between these countries and Iran.

OLOF PALME EXPECTED IN TEHRAN AFTER BAGHDAD VISIT

JN160618 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 16 Jan 81

[Text] PARS says that Olof Palme, former Swedish prime minister and UN special envoy, is due in Tehran this Friday afternoon following his visit to Iraq.

NETHERLANDS AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS

LD140400 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Jan 81

[Text] According to the Central News Bureau, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran has announced that Mr (Vaned van der Poll), the new Netherlands ambassador to Iran, has met the deputy minister of foreign affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran and presented his credentials to him. The new Netherlands ambassador, who is a high-ranking member of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of that country, has previously served as ambassador to a number of countries.

TEHRAN STRESSES CLERGY'S SUPPORT FOR ARMED FORCES

LD151444 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1126 GMT 15 Jan 81

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] A country under imperialist domination has armed forces which are separated from the nation and dependent on foreign advisers. In order to plunder the wealth of a nation, imperialism trains its armed forces to suppress the voices of protest in that nation and others in the region. A clear example of such an army is the Ba'thist Army of Iraq which is now a tool in the hands of the superpowers to suppress the Muslim nation of Iraq and the Islamic Revolution in Iran.

In order to make use of an army to pursue its own expansionist goals, imperialism indoctrinates it with a culture in which there is no trace of freedom or other human values. As a result, an army comes into being which is dependent upon a dictator and not upon the nation. The leaders of the Ba'thist Army of Iraq are dependent on Saddam Husayn and, as a result, upon imperialism. This is why they suppress their own nation and wage war against the Muslim and revolutionary Iranian nation. In the same way, the leaders of the Iranian Armed Forces under the former hated regime were dependent upon the court, much to the disgust of the Muslim soldiers, NCO's and officers. American imperialism tried for many years to make the Iranian Armed Forces its puppet through the help of advisers and mercenaries who supported the shah, and to separate it from the nation. Although imperialism succeeded to some extent in achieving its evil goals, the lower cadres of the armed forces were not separated from the nation and even during the revolution took the side of the Muslim and revolutionary nation. In order to make the Iranian Armed Forces a tool in its hand for the sake of safeguarding its interests in the region, imperialism strongly propagated Western culture, nationalism and a blind worship of the king among the armed forces, and prevented the spreading of Islam and Islamic brotherhood among them.

As a result of the Islamic movement of the Iranian nation under the leadership of Imam Khomeyni, the personnel of the Iranian Armed Forces--who are the children of the same Muslim people and who feel a deep love towards Islam and the imam-experienced a reawakening of their religious conscience which had gone to sleep as the result of the imperialist policies of the former regime, and they gradually came towards the nation and began to fight against the shah.

The heroic nation of Iran has not yet forgotten that the final and effective blow on the rotten corpse of the former regime was delivered by the armed forces, especially the air force. The soldiers and officers of the armed forces--who have a deep love for Islam and the Islamic revolution and who were separated from the Muslim Iranian nation by the force of the bayonet of the former regime--saw that the foundations of the regime had been weakened and that the bayonets had been removed from their throats, and quickly joined the nation and destroyed the shah's regime from within.

The heroic Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which are now creating an epic story with their operations in the war against the deceived Ba'thist forces, are comprised of individuals who by turning their backs on the former regime and by turning to the Muslim and revolutionary Iranian nation speeded up the victory of the Islamic revolution. Despite the views of some dependent and hostile individuals, the Iranian Armed Forces have played an effective role in the winning and safeguarding of the Islamic revolution. The heroic people of Iran have not forgotten and will not forget the self-sacrificing deeds of their armed forces in the suppression of the mercenaries of imperialism in Kordestan and other areas.

Now these brave soldiers of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, with the assistance of the self-sacrificing Islamic revolution guards and other fighters, are making world imperialism despair from achieving its evil goal, namely the destruction of the Islamic revolution. After the victory of the Islamic revolution, some dependent groups and individuals whose dependency has now become clear to the Muslim people of Iran--this was difficult to prove at the beginning of the victory of the Islamic revolution-called for the dissolution of the armed forces and said that this army is against the nation and that a new army which, is dependent upon the masses, and presumably under their leadership, should be formed.

The imam of the nation and the aware clergy were not deceived by these pseudorevolutionaries. In answer to the imperialist view concerning the dissolution of the armed forces, the imam issued an order to purge and strengthen them. After the catastrophes of Kordestan and Gonbad, engineered by the mercenaries of imperialism, the Islamic nation of Iran discovered the depth of the deceit of these Khalqis [referring to the Mujahedin-e Khalq and the Feda'iyan-e Khalq] who used to say that the armed forces were against the masses and had to be destroyed.

In the beginning stages of the victory of the Islamic revolution when the Iranian armed forces were in their weakest and most disorganized form, the imam of the nation and the aware clergy resuscitated the moribund army and with the cooperation of the committed commanders reorganized it. The counterrevolutionaries who were waiting for the army's disintegration so they could attack the barracks and plunder the weapons and use them against the Islamic revolution lost hope with the reorganization of the armed forces. The mercenaries of imperialism only managed to achieve their goals in places like Kordestan that had a weaker administrative organization and where they were able to steal weapons from the barracks. We have seen what a calamity that created for the Islamic revolution, a disaster that still continues.

The imam and the aware clergy have always supported the armed forces and have won the support of the Muslim masses for the military and thus strengthened it, and the imam and the forces following the line of the imam continue to be the true supporters and the sincere friends of the armed forces.

The enemy is now making use of a new deceit in order to separate the armed forces from the nation and by means of propaganda among the military brothers is trying to separate the clergy from the armed forces and prepare the ground for the confrontation of various strata in the country against the armed forces.

The brave Armed Forces of Iran--the soldiers of Islam--should know that their true supporters are the imam and the forces following the line of the imam, despite the fact that a group of people under the pretext of reorganizing the armed forces are trying to separate the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran from the clergy and, consequently, from the Muslim masses.

As the result of the Islamic revolution and due to the effective leadership of Imam Khomeyni, the soldiers and officers of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic have become so interlocked with the clergy and with the Muslim masses that these tricks will no longer be able to separate them from the nation. With its heroic deeds in the battle against the counterrevolutionaries after the victory of the Islamic revolution and now in the war against the mercenaries of the superpowers, the Iranian Armed Forces have proved that they are, in fact, the steadfast supporters of the bloodstained Islamic revolution and the heroic nation of Iran. Before and after the victory of the Islamic revolution, the brave Iranian Armed Forces sacrificed many martyrs for the sake of Islam; now, with the cooperation of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and other self-sacrificing forces, they are creating epic tales on the battlefields between the forces of truth and falsehood. The Muslim people of Iran have always supported their people's army. Their sincere assistance to the soldiers of Islam manifests their complete support for the brave Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic and other fighters of Islam.

The nation and the armed forces are now holding each other's hands and defending their glorious Islamic revolution. It is the duty of the Muslim Iranian nation to continue assisting the brave fighters of Islam through material and moral support so that the valiant children of the Islamic revolution can purge our Islamic homeland of the filthy deceived forces of Saddam by continuing their victorious offensive.

BANI-SADR, CHAMRAN, FALLAHI DISCUSS WARFRONTS

LD152140 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2043 GMT 15 Jan 81

[Text] In a meeting held tonight in the presence of Dr Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, the president and commander in chief, and Dr Mostafa Chamran, the imam's representative at the Supreme Defense Council, the situation on warfronts and the operations of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the popular forces was reviewed and views were exchanged on the issue.

According to a PARS report, the meeting which was held at a Khuzestan town, was also attended by acting Joint Chief of Staff Brigadier General Fallahi.

JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE 375 ON 14-15 JAN FIGHTING

LD151819 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1640 GMT 15 Jan 81

[Communique 375 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. The results of the battle waged by the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran against Saddam's aggressive army's mercenaries and the overall situation on the warfronts on 14 and 15 January are as follows:

1. In the Mahshahr area our valiant combatants, thanks to their intensified efforts, succeeded in killing 40 aggressors and in wounding a number of them. In the same region 8 enemy trenches, together with their servicemen, were utterly wiped out and 4 mercenary tanks and 1 military vehicle were set ablaze.

2. In the Abadan region the aggressive enemy, coming under the blows delivered by the heroes of Islam, lost 1 tank, 1 military vehicle and 2 trenches. During these operations a number of the enemies of Islam were either killed or wounded.

3. On the Khuninshahr and Ahvaz fronts the dynamic combatants of the air force of the ground forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, specifically the Airborne Division, employing the firepower of their helicopter gunships, destroyed an aggregate of eight enemy loaders and killed a number of mercenaries.

4. In the Dezful region, thanks to artillery fire by the ground forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and also thanks to the efforts of heroic patrols and the vigilance of the units deployed in this region, 20 servicemen of the forces of blasphemy were killed and a number were wounded.

5. On the western fronts the combatants of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps with matchless bravery and selflessness today repulsed an attack by enemy servicemen in the Dehloran region and, using mortar fire, destroyed two APC's of the Iraqi forces and killed more than 50 of the aggressors. Following these bold operations the enemy was forced to beat a retreat from this region.

6. As a result of artillery fire by the Iranian ground forces, Iraq's (Dilim) garrison in the vicinity of Panjwin was heavily pounded and the enemy suffered losses.

7. Three aggressive Iraqi aircraft, detected by the radar network of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran, fled from Iran's skies thanks to fire from our ground-to-air defense units.

8. Reports reaching us from Iraq all speak of the Iraqi people's daily-mounting opposition to Saddam's anti-Islamic and blood-spilling regime. According to reports we have received the committed and combatant Iraqi Muslims, who are regularly holding demonstrations, are demonstrating their opposition to the agent bosses of Baghdad's At-Tikriti regime. Traitorous Saddam naively believes he is demonstrating tough action in order to stifle their righteous voice. According to a report we have received from Karbala, during recent demonstrations in that city some 300 Muslim combatant demonstrators were martyred. According to another report, Saddam's blood-spilling regime captured a number of Iraqi officers in Sulaymaniyah who intended to seek asylum with the army of Islam. There is no information as to their fate.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

WESTERN FRONT COMMANDERS CLAIM IRAQI LOSSES HEAVY

Ilam Commander's Comments

GF151555 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Jan 81

[Text] A correspondent for the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran has reported from Ilam that groups of Muslim fighters and members of the mobilization of the oppressed have carried out commando operations during the past 2 days. They penetrated the positions of mercenaries of agent Saddam's regime on the Ilam front and inflicted heavy losses on the treacherous aggressive enemy.

The operations commander of the mobilization of the oppressed in Ilam governorate said commando groups of Muslim fighters overran one of the enemy positions and completely destroyed a 36-km supply line. They also destroyed 1 tank and 2 ammunition and hardware trucks, killed 28 misguided personnel and captured great quantities of ammunition and RPG-7 grenades.

The commander added: Another group of the mobilization of the oppressed discovered and disarmed 820 mines the enemy had planted in an area in Ilam governorate. In other operations in Mehran the same group destroyed one tank, one armored personnel carrier, one antiaircraft gun, one bulldozer and quantities of explosives belonging to the Iraq mercenaries. On the way back the group buried 13 of agent Saddam's soldiers killed by the artillery of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Gilan-e Gharb Leader's Report

LD151728 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Jan 81

[Text] Gilan-e Gharb's operational commander, in a PARS interview, has released the following figures on the losses and casualties suffered by enemy forces thanks to the new wave of attacks by our heroes:

Two enemy battalions have been totally destroyed and the remnants of the enemy forces' mountain brigade--whose commander was also killed--have totally disintegrated, and in addition to those two said battalions, 420 enemy killed have been counted so far. Also some 100 servicemen have been captured by our army forces and the Islamic revolution guards in two war zones. The following equipment belonging to Saddam's mercenary army has been destroyed: 26 tanks, 3 personnel carriers, 2 bulldozers, 2 helicopters, one MiG, 7 large ammunition dumps which burned for 3 days, 8 personnel transporters, 7 cannon, 2 vehicles laden with ammunition, two transport vehicles for carrying arms, and one jeep armed with a 106-mm gun and one antiaircraft cannon. Seven hundred anti-tank mines were also removed and defused during this period, and some concrete bunkers were cleared of enemy forces. The volume of war booty captured on these fronts was tremendous, including 500 Kalashnikov automatic rifles collected by civilians. The necessary steps have been taken in order to take possession of them. According to the same report, the operational commander on the western front called on the region's inhabitants to hand over the arms to the military forces as soon as possible. He added that a great many gas masks, RPG-7's, ammunition, one U.S. missile launcher, one Russian 75-mm antiaircraft gun, two 75-mm heavy machine-guns, one 60-mm and one 82-mm mortar launcher and large quantities of ammunition for the 50-mm heavy machine-gun abandoned by the enemy have either been collected or taken as booty.

Gilan-e Gharb's operational commander added that this is only some of the equipment left behind in the region by the fleeing enemy which has been collected so far.

Guards Claim Victory

LD151820 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Jan 81

[Text] PARS reports that the following announcement was released by the public relations office of the central headquarters of the Corps of Islamic Revolution Guards:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate, greetings to the combatants who are standing up to the forces of the infidels to the last drop of their blood and who continue to crush the enemy's ranks by shouting "God is great." The following information concerns some operations carried out on the western front yesterday:

1. [as heard] Following an attack in Dehloran region, the deployed enemy forces were confronted with brave resistance by our brother guardsmen in Ilam.

As a result, two Iraqi armored personnel carriers were destroyed and more than 50 enemy troops killed. Subsequently, the enemy retreated. In Gilan-e Gharb, after a series of operations by brother guardsmen, carried out through coordinated cooperation with our brave army brothers, all areas leading to Hajian Pass were recaptured, with a considerable number of the mercenary enemy troops have been killed or wounded. Moreover, a number of attackers were captured by the Islamic Forces. We also captured a considerable quantity of weapons from the aggressive enemy.

Ilam, Dehloran Fighting

LD151755 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1646 GMT 15 Jan 81

[Text] According to a report by the PARS correspondent in Ilam, quoting informed military sources, our heroic forces have repulsed enemy aggression in the Dehloran region. In this battle yesterday afternoon heavy casualties were inflicted on the forces of the mercenary Saddam and in the end the enemy was forced to retreat.

The heroic and self-sacrificing members of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps stationed in the Reza-Abad region northeast of Mehran brought the infidel enemy positions under the fire of their accurate mortars. As a result one complex of enemy trenches, including all the people in them, were completely destroyed. In another battle in Konjamkam region two fighters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps were injured. In the same region, as a result of the effective and accurate mortar fire of the self-sacrificing fighters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, 12 group trenches of the Iraqi aggressors were destroyed and more than 28 of the mercenaries of the infidel Saddam were killed. According to the remarks of one of our observers, the mortar fire has been very accurate and effective, so much so that enemy ammunition and equipment were burning and exploding for 2 hours afterwards. The forces of mercenary Saddam were so surprised that they had no opportunity even to collect their corpses.

Also yesterday a large number of enemy tanks and personnel which intended to advance in the Dehloran region were scattered due to the initiative taken by our forces. Some of them were also wounded as the result of the exchange of fire, and the forces of blasphemy were forced to retreat. According to the same report, in this clash 5 tanks of the aggressive enemy were destroyed and more than 50 of the forces of blasphemy were killed. According to the report of the PARS correspondent in Ilam, two tanks of the Iraqi forces were destroyed as the result of hitting mines and their crews were killed.

IRANIAN WOUNDED TRANSFERRED TO AHVAZ HOSPITALS

LD151825 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Jan 81

[Text] Quoting the Khuzestan medical relief headquarters, PARS reports that over the past 24 hours some 28 Islamic revolution defenders who were wounded fighting the infidels on the Susangerd, Karkheh Kur, Mared and (Farsian) fronts have been transferred to various hospitals in Ahvaz. Also the bodies of eight of the revolution's self-sacrificing individuals, martyred on the Ahvaz and Susangerd fronts, were taken to mortuaries in Ahvaz hospitals.

GUARDS REPORT DEZFUL SHELLED, CIVILIANS HIT

LD151822 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1649 GMT 15 Jan 81

[Text] Quoting the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps in Dezful, PARS reports that following the relative calm that lasted until early this morning in Dezful, this afternoon the Iraqi mercenary army brought the residential areas of the town under its long-range artillery fire. At the time of this news dispatch about eight artillery shells have been fired on the town.

The same report adds that as a result of enemy shelling four Dezful citizens were wounded and four villagers, who had come to town to do their shopping, were martyred.

FORCES CLASH WITH 'COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES'

LD161148 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Jan 81

[Text] According to a Central News Bureau and PARS dispatch, Sanandaj's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Staff Command reported: Today a strike group of revolution forces left to carry out mopping-up operations in the hamlets of 'Isa'abad and Kalat-e Deh on the Sanandaj-Marivan axis. This morning, while these hamlets were being mopped up, a clash took place between the combatant forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, the Muslim Kurdish peshmergas and the army brothers on the one hand and counterrevolutionary elements on the other, as a result of which one of the counter-revolutionaries was killed and a number were wounded and the rest vanished. During these operations three Kalashnikov weapons, two G-3's, two Colts, one grenadethrower and a quantity of other military equipment were captured from the assailants. According to the same dispatch, during the operations only one of the Muslim Kurdish peshmergas received superficial wounds.

NVOI URGES END TO ANTI-SOVIET ACTIVITIES IN IRAN

TA152039 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1730 GMT 15 Jan 81

[Unattributed commentary: "The Opponents of Friendship Between Iran and the Soviet Union Are The Enemies of The Iranian Revolution"]

[Text] Dear compatriots: As you are aware, on 12 January a statement by the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs in connection with ensuring the safety of Soviet institutions, their personnel and Soviet citizens in the Islamic Republic of Iran, was handed to our country's ambassador in the Soviet Union. While referring to the Soviet Government's protest against certain criminal acts which took place on 27 December by the Hezbollahi and Afghan club-wielders at the Soviet Embassy in Tehran, it is said in the statement that the Soviet Government naturally expected that Iranian authorities would unequivocally and resolutely condemn these criminal acts and strictly punish the organizers and participants in order to rule out a recurrence of such cases, however, nothing of the kind has been done. Having expressed in a close manner a formal regret, officials of the Iranian Government virtually took these hooligans and club-wielders under their protection.

Our homeland's people are more or less aware of the remarks by a number of government officials in connection with this. When we briefly review our country's events during the post-revolution period, we see that a wing of a certain group, especially individuals associated with the liberal bourgeois, have consistently strived and continue to strive according to Brzezinski's recommendation and instruction to separate revolutionary Iran from its true friends, depriving it of the international support, backing and solidarity of progressive mankind in the face of the plots, threats and aggressions of U.S. imperialism.

These elements have exerted and continue to exert all their efforts in order to place the Soviet Union, which is the friend and supporter of the popular revolution of the Iranian nation, on the same level as U.S. imperialism, which is the sworn enemy of our nation and revolution, thus distracting public opinion. That which took place in Tehran on 27 December, namely the attack by hooligan Hezbollahi club-wielding groups, Savakists, a group of Afghan counterrevolutionary fugitives and the Maoists on the USSR Embassy in Tehran, was conducted according to the prescription and plan of the CIA and was part of the plots of U.S. imperialism against liberated Iran.

Our enemies are lying in wait and are awaiting an opportunity to isolate the Iranian revolution at all costs. Thus, by weakening its international positions, they intend to prepare the ground and conditions for liquidating the gains of the revolution, overthrowing the system of the Islamic Republic and installing a regime dependent on America.

As stressed in the statement by the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs the regrettable point is that the Iranian authorities had been informed in advance that an attack was being prepared against the USSR Embassy, however, as we observed, they did not attempt to prevent it from being carried out. In fact, our country's prestige and credibility suffered a blow. This situation cannot but arouse the concern of the revolutionary Iranian people and of the true revolutionary forces.

In connection with the intensification of the criminal and counterrevolutionary activities of the Hezbollahi hooligans and club-wielders, Savakists, Maoists, pro-American leftists and Afghan fugitives--who unfortunately take advantage of the government's tacit consent--this just question is posed: Is there a thing called law in our liberated country? This is not the way to administer a country and government in which certain criminal groups, counterrevolutionary individuals and shah-lovers do whatever they want in broad daylight throughout the country, according to the religious decree of this or that person, and no one has the right to tell them anything. This situation precisely confirms a famous proverb: They have tied the stone and unleased the dog; a situation which rightly arouses the concern of the people.

The people want revolutionary laws to govern affairs in our country and want the subversive and criminal activities of counterrevolutionary groups--which cause humiliation for the Iranian revolution--to be strictly prevented. The Iranian people have observed and continue to observe through experience that the government and state of our northern neighbor, the Soviet Union, was by the side of the Iranian nation from the very first days of the revolutionary struggles in our homeland, during the revolution and following its victory, and supported and continues to render all-out support to the Iranian nation. This unselfish support and solidarity by the Soviet Union is one of the principle elements that has blocked the way for implementing the ominous intentions of U.S. imperialism against Iran. It is for this reason that the Iranian people value this support and solidarity.

The Soviet Government stressed in its statement that as before, it is ready to consolidate its relations with Iran on the basis of good-neighborliness and mutual respect. It is this policy of the Soviet Government htat has alarmed the enemies of the Iranian revolution. It is incumbent upon the aware people of our homeland, upon the true revolutionary forces and upon the responsible officials to foil both the plots of U.S. imperialism, the provocations of the counterrevolutionary mercenaries and the opponents of friendship between Iran and the Soviet Union through revolutionary vigilance.

FREE VOICE OF IRAN ON END OF 'HOSTAGE-TAKING PLAY'

NC160835 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 15 Jan 81

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Compatriots: The Islamic Republic regime has begun the last scene of the hostage-taking play in which the American hostages, who until yesterday were called the dangerous elements of U.S. intelligence, and whose terrifying crimes even in the Vietnam war had been stressed, will be released happily and the curtain will fall. Yes, the play is ending and the actors are ready to receive their pay from (?the producers).

Compatriots! History will very precisely clarify with proof and documents who wrote and produced the play as well as the ends it wanted to achieve with its setting filled with lies, blood and crimes, but what should be said now is what answer do the actors of the hostage-taking play want to give to the 36 million Iranians?

The people overtly feel that they have been fooled and ask: Did all those daily marches in Tehran's streets, all the shouts in front of the den of espionage and all that trumpeting merely result in taking the hostages and, in return for their release, in asking for a wealth that belonged to us and that was confiscated.

What result did your hostage taking have? Did you make the American superpower kneel? Did you destroy the imperialist forces? Did you exchange Iran's dependent status for self-sufficiency? Shame on you, o criminals! What but imperialism benefits from the unsavory and calamitous situation you have created in Iran in all areas? Were you struggling with imperialism or with the Iranian people when you implemented these destructive plans in Iran?

You think that you have prepared public opinion for the hostages release and the end of the hostages issue, but the people who understand your frauds and deceits will call you to account. You, on behalf of the same foreigner who showed you the green light in the [word indistinct] incident, have been charged with the duty of destroying Iran and crushing its progressive plans in such a way that Iran will not be able to (?stand up) for decades and will be a dependent country that can be exploited on a long-term basis by the superpowers.

Your hostage taking was not an anti-imperialist act but an anti-Iranian plot, the nature of which has been understood by all Iranians, who are sick and tired and prepared for an uprising. Today or tomorrow they will (?crush) the disgraceful regime and (?establish) a national rule on the basis of freedom and fraternity in their country.

Long live Iran! Long live the Iranian nation! Death to Khomeyni's criminal regime!

NEPAL

LEGISLATIVE TERMS EXPIRE, CABINET RESHUFFLED

BK141531 Hong Kong AFP in English 0725 GMT 14 Jan 81

[Text] Katmandu, 14 Jan (AFP)--Five ministers, including three senior members of Prime Minister Surya Bahadur Thapa's 22 member Cabinet, relinquished their respective posts as their terms in the National Panchayat (legislature) expired last night.

Mr Jog Mehar Shrestha, minister for public works and transport--who had played a vital role in the May 2 national referendum as a home minister--Netra Bikram Thapa, minister for general administrations, and B.P. Thebe, the minister for food and agriculture, resigned.

The two outgoing junior ministers were Mrs Sarawati Rai, assistant minister for water resources and Purna Bahadur Gurung, assistant minister for works and transport.

A royal palace press note said that the portfolio of public works and transport has been given to K.N. Shahi, the minister for foreign affairs, the portfolio of food and agriculture to Mr Nain Bahadur Swar, minister for law and justice and general administration to Dr V.P. Pant, minister of state for finance.

Meanwhile the terms of 30 other members of the National Panchayat, the unicameral legislature, also expired last night, thereby reducing the membership of the legislature to 51 elected members and 23 king's nominees.

These members were elected from four zones, including Bagmati (Kathandu), Bheri, Gandhaki and Mechi. The vacancies will be filled up only after the general election due for mid-May this year.

Of the total 140 membership of the National Panchayat, according to the reformed constitution, 112 will be elected by the general public through adult franchise and King Birendra will nominate the other 28 members. The National Panchayat will elect the prime minister responsible to the house.

While the outlawed Nepal Communist Parties and pro-democratic factions headed by former Prime Minister B.P. KOIRALA have not yet decided whether or not to fight the election, Premier Thapa has already acted to strengthen the unity of the workers of the partyless polity.